

The latest developments
in Utah and around the
Intermountain West



Davis Midwife Case Attracts Attention From Many Areas

FARMINGTON, Utah (UPI) — The trial of midwife Ronna Hand on charges she practiced medicine without a license is more than a month away, but it is already attracting widespread interest.

Ms. Hand was arraigned Tuesday on charges she illegally administered a drug to a pregnant woman during a July 10 home birth. The trial of the Kaysville woman was scheduled for Dec. 14.

But, during her arraignment, more than 60 supporters picketed the Davis County Courthouse. They claimed the real issue in the trial is a woman's right to give birth at home.

The protesters claimed the Davis County Attorney's Office and the state's medical profession are trying to stop home childbirth.

Sandra Vivien, Provo, said "a large number" of women who have had home births comprised the nucleus of Tuesday's protesters.



Midwife Ronna Hand of Kaysville meets with her supporters outside the Davis County Courthouse after her arraignment.

Midwife's Business License Renewed

Herald 20 Mar 1984
KAYSVILLE, Utah (UPI) — A midwife has been given a renewed business license after being acquitted of charges of practicing medicine without a license.

Ronna Hand assured city officials she will not conduct a birthing clinic at her business, the Birth Place, in exchange for the renewal.

Ms. Hand had been charged with her partner Linda Jellings, who pleaded no contest to practicing medicine without a license. A patient testified Mrs. Jellings had injected her with a hormone to induce labor.

Utah does not regulate lay midwifery, but only certified nurse midwives can work in clinics where children are born.



—Wide World Photo

COUNTRY MIDWIFE—Etta Nichols, 86, estimates she has delivered more than 2,000 babies in 54 years as a midwife in the East Tennessee mountains of Cocke County. She works without the aid of doctors, medicine or a college education, and charges \$15 a delivery.